

June 16, 2011

Contact: Meagan Racey 413-658-4386
Deborah Carter 304-636-6586

**Federal regulations updated for Virginia northern flying squirrel
under the Endangered Species Act**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a final rule to comply with a court order that reinstated the regulatory protections under the Endangered Species Act for the Virginia northern flying squirrel, more commonly known as the West Virginia northern flying squirrel.

While the court order had legal effect immediately upon its filing on March 25, 2011, this final rule is necessary to update the Code of Federal Regulations.

In accordance with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia court order, West Virginia northern flying squirrels are listed as endangered throughout Virginia and West Virginia.

A copy of the reinstatement final rule and other information about the West Virginia northern flying squirrel is available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A09R> or by contacting Deborah Carter at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office, 694 Beverly Pike, Elkins, WV 26241 (telephone (304)636-6586). The final rule will be published in the Federal Register on Friday, June 17, and is available today at <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx>.

Learn more about this species at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newsroom/wvnfsq.html>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and a trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwsnortheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwsnortheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsnortheast>.